

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SORENSEN ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Serial No.: 09/172,556 Group Art Unit: 3615  
Filed: OCTOBER 14, 1998 Docket: 424.83US11  
Due Date: JUNE 3, 1999  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENDING PRODUCTS



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 12, 1999.

By: Charles E. Golla

Charles E. Golla

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GROUP 3600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

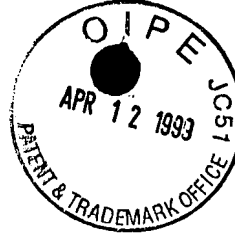
- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Other: Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, copy of the International Search Report and copies of cited references
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT, GOULD, SMITH, EDELL,  
WELTER & SCHMIDT  
3100 Norwest Center, Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 332-5300

By: Charles E. Golla

Name: Charles E. Golla  
Reg. No.: 26,896  
CEG:PSTslc



S/N 09/172,556

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	SORENSEN ET AL.	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	09/172,556	Group Art Unit:	3615
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 8, 1999.

By: *Charles E. Golla*  
Charles E. Golla

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**  
**STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Also enclosed is a copy of the International Search Report mailed March 3, 1999.

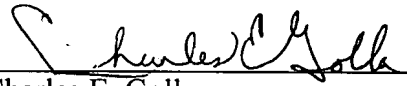
No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merchant, Gould, Smith, Edell,  
Welter & Schmidt, P.A.  
3100 Norwest Center  
90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612/332-5300

Dated: April 7, 1999

  
Charles E. Golla  
Reg. No. 26,896  
CEG:PSTslc